

# vectors

Vectors – slide 1

Vectors in parts – components – slide 13

Adding vectors in 2D geometrically - easy cases  
Slide 19

## VECTORS vs SCALAR

A *scalar* quantity is one that can be described by a single number:  
temperature, speed, mass

A *vector* quantity deals inherently with both magnitude and direction:  
velocity, force, displacement

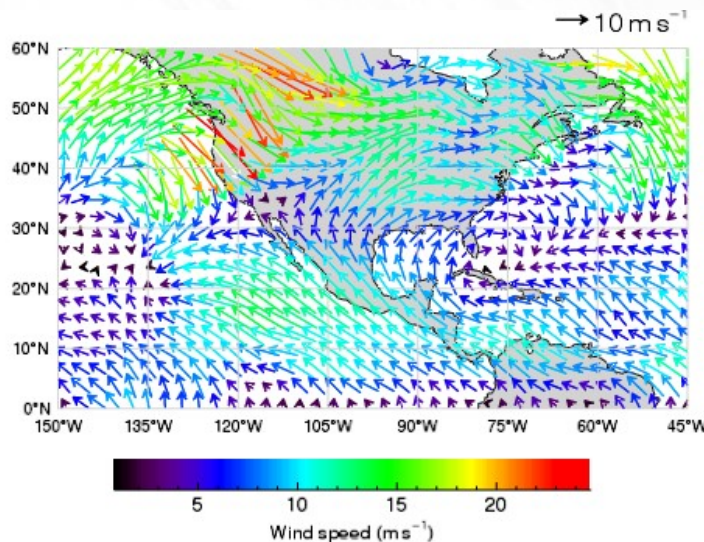
HOW MUCH ? OF WHAT ? WHICH WAY ?

WHICH quantity is not a vector

1. force
2. speed
3. acceleration
4. displacement

WHICH quantity is a scalar

1. distance
2. velocity
3. acceleration
4. displacement

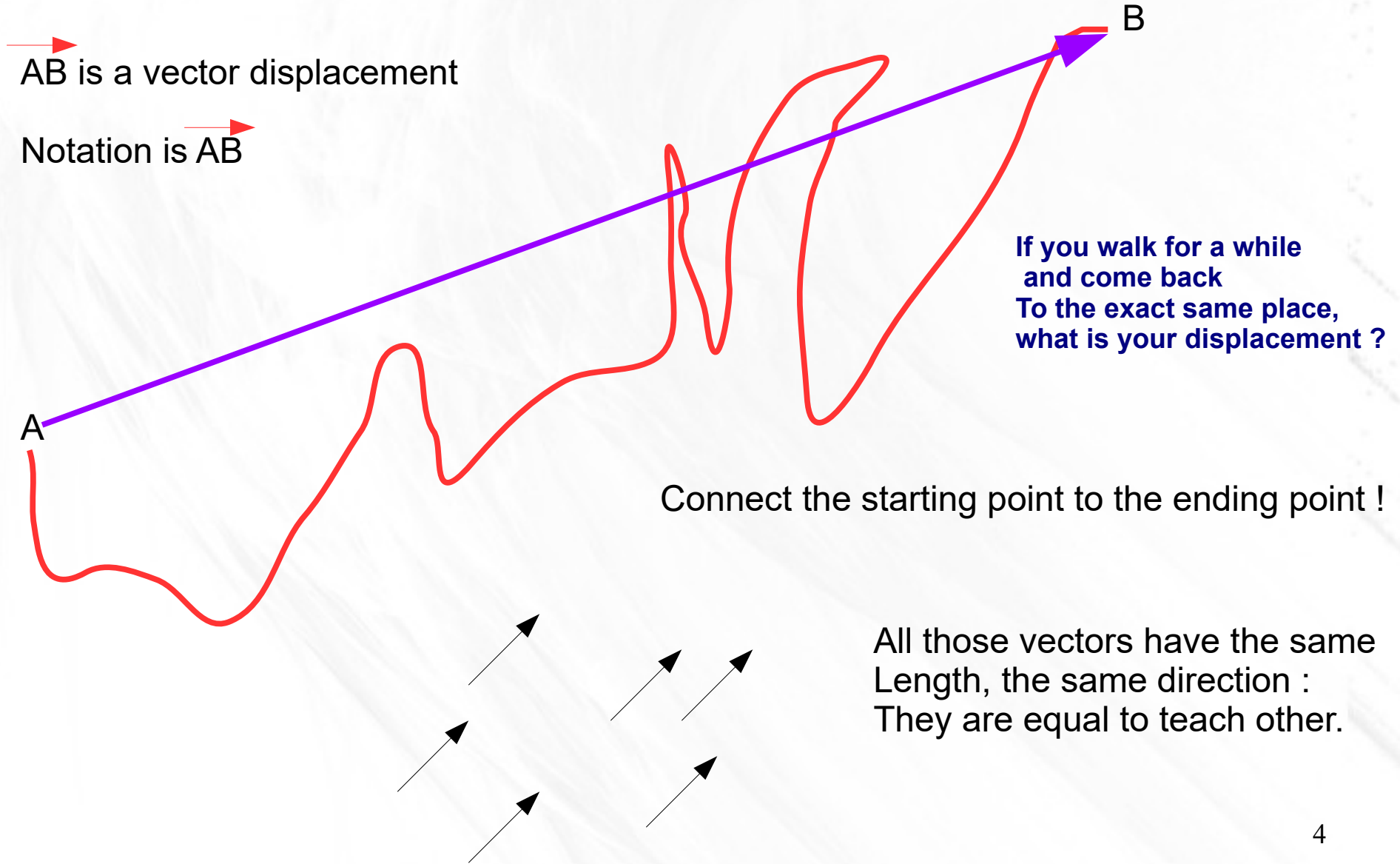


This map shows the velocities of the Wind. The velocities have a magnitude (speed of wind from 0 to 25. The length of the arrows are proportional to the magnitude), a direction (which way), And a unit (m/s).

Colors are also used to show the magnitude.

<https://www.harrisgeospatial.com/docs/vectors.html>

**Trace the vector displacement : connect the starting point A to the end point B. A is the tail of the vector and B the head.**



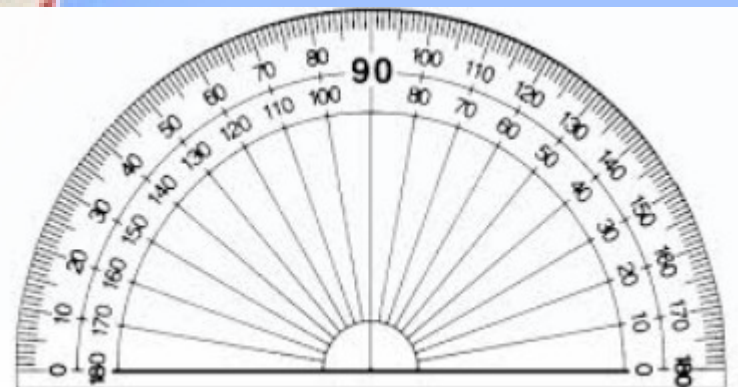


The vector represents the displacement  
NYC – Detroit.  
It has magnitude, a unit, a direction

Displacement = \_\_\_\_\_ @ \_\_\_\_\_  
The distance in blue is a scalar.



Displacement = 600miles @ 10 degrees N of W

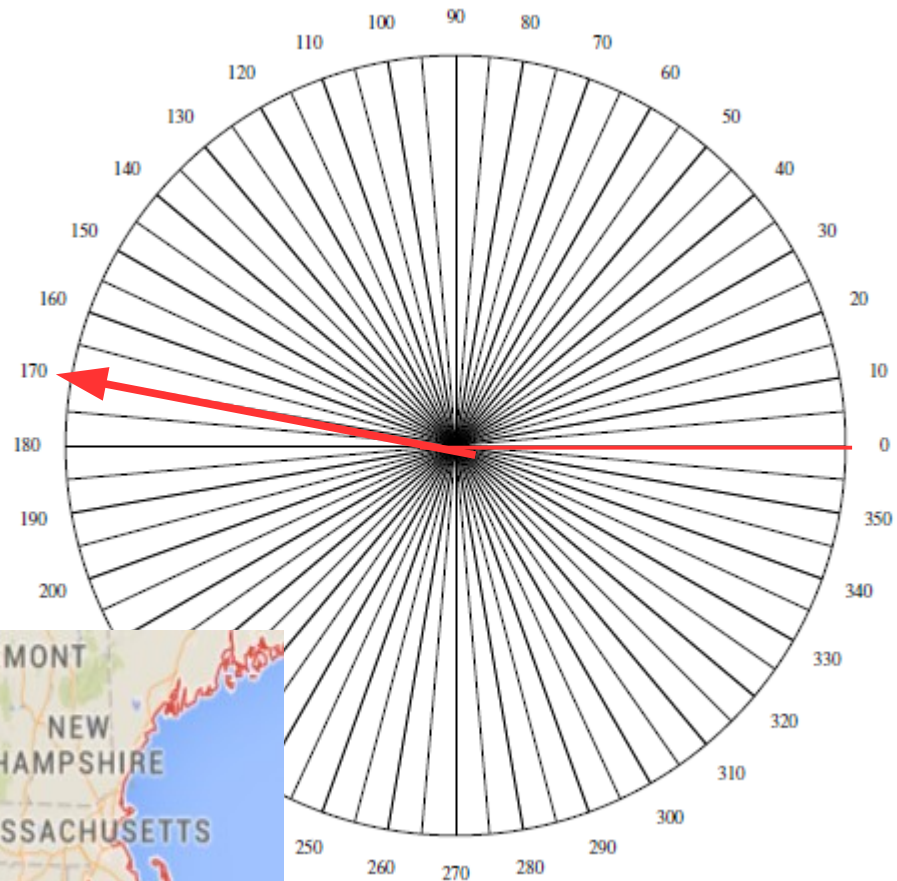




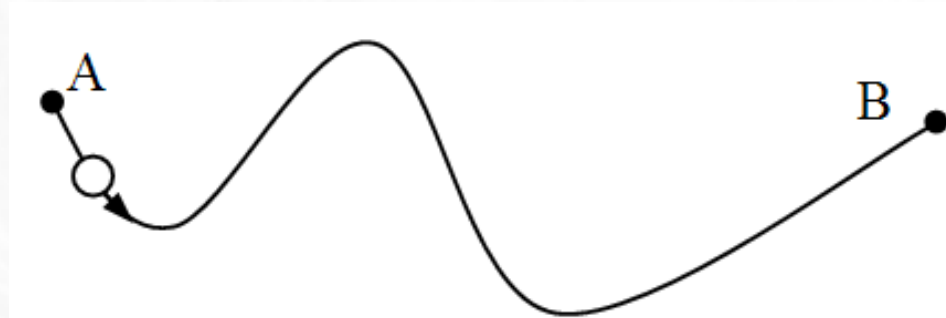
In Physics / Math we prefer  
The notation:

600 miles @ 170

It is the polar notation  
Or standard notation  
See doc polar coordinate.



A particle travels along a curved path between two points A and B as shown. Complete the following statement: The displacement of the particle does not depend on



- a) the location of A.
- b) the location of B.
- c) the direction of A from B.
- d) the distance traveled from A to B.
- e) the shortest distance between A and B.

In each case what is the displacement and the distance.

- a) An Olympic athlete is running around an oval track.  
( $R = 10\text{m}$ )
- b) A truck travels 4 miles west; and then, it stops and travels 2 miles west.
- c) A ball rises 5m and falls 5m after being thrown straight up from the earth's surface.

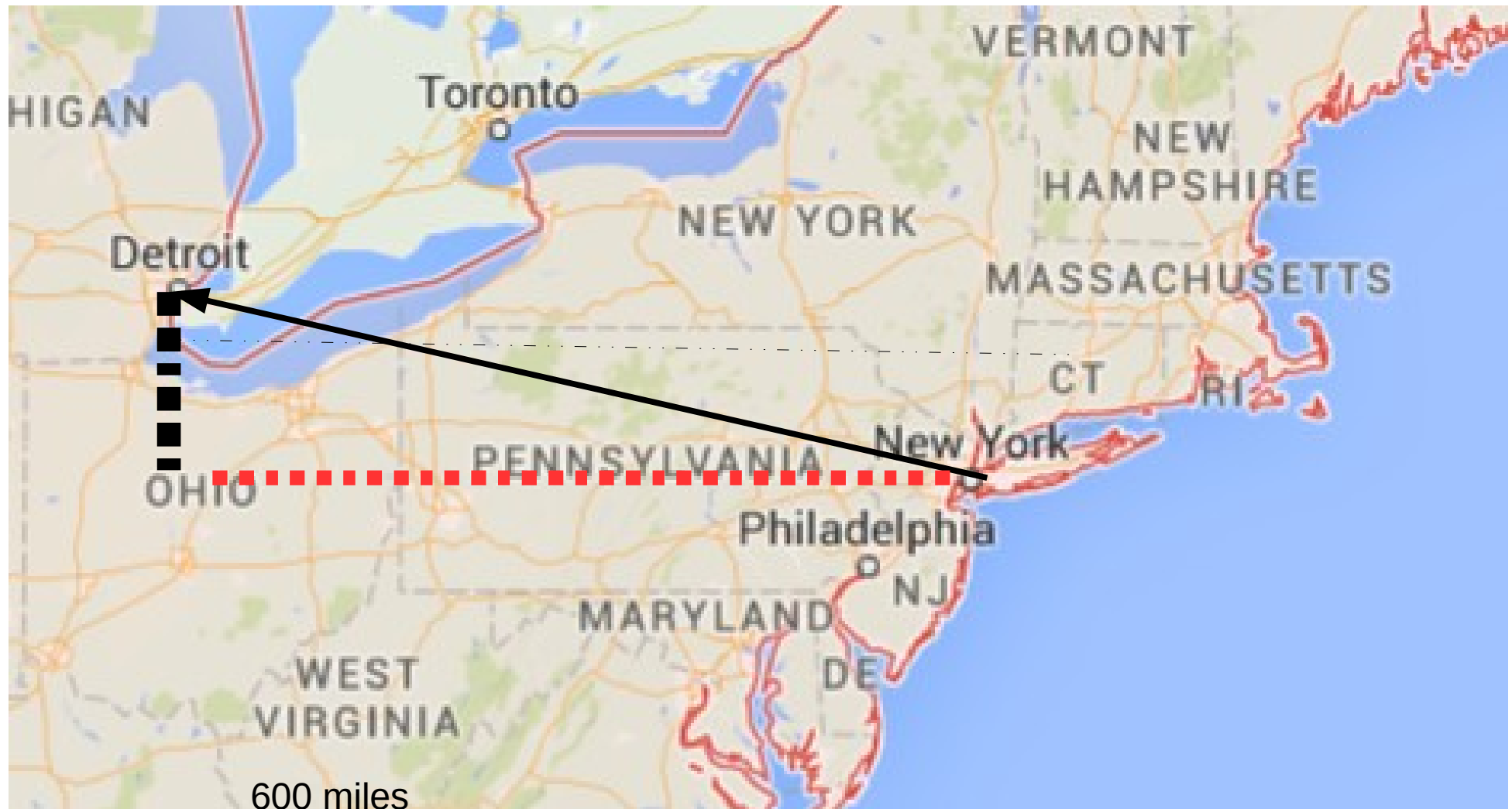


Complete the following statement: Displacement is

- a) a scalar that indicates the distance between two points.
- b) a vector indicating the distance and direction from one point to another.
- c) a measure of volume.
- d) the same as the distance traveled between two points.
- e) a vector drawn perpendicular to the line connecting two points.

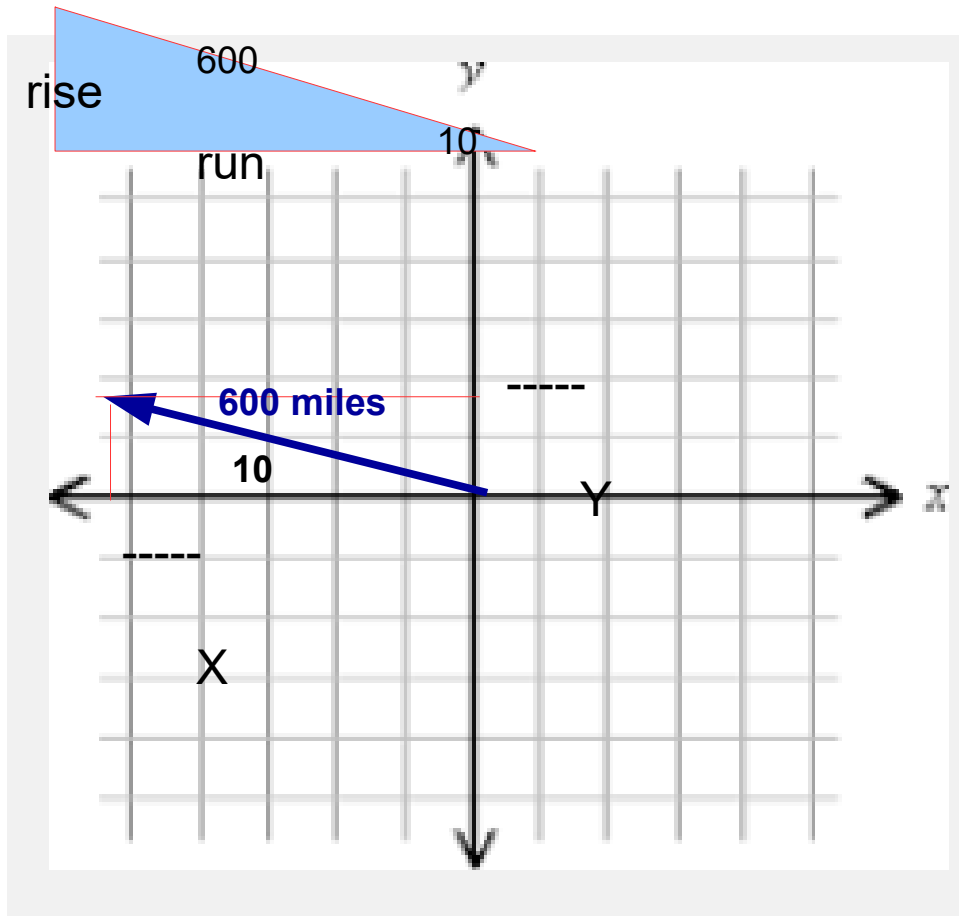
Vectors come in parts. A vector has 2 components in 2D.  
A horizontal component along the x-axis or W-E direction  
and a vertical component along the y-axis or the S-N direction

Here you can find how far in the West direction and how far in the North direction



Find the components of the vector displacement.  
The magnitude is 600 miles and the angle is 10 degree. Use trig.

We can use the polar coordinate to switch to Cartesian coordinate  
To find the components X and Y of the vector displacement 600 miles @ 170 degrees  
(or 600 miles @ 10 degrees N of W)



## 2 ways to do it :

### #1. Extract the blue triangle

run =  $600 \cos(10) = 591$  then  $X < 0$   
So  $X = -591$  miles or 591 miles @ W  
Rise =  $600 \sin(10) = 104$   
 $Y = 104$  miles or 104 miles @ N

### #2. Use standard notation:

The angle is 170 degrees

$X = 600 \cos(170) = -591$  miles  
 $Y = 600 \sin(170) = 104$  miles

This is easier as you don't  
Worry about the signs.

So the components of the displacement are  $X = -591$  miles  $Y = 104$  miles  
The object moved 591 @ west and 104 miles at north.

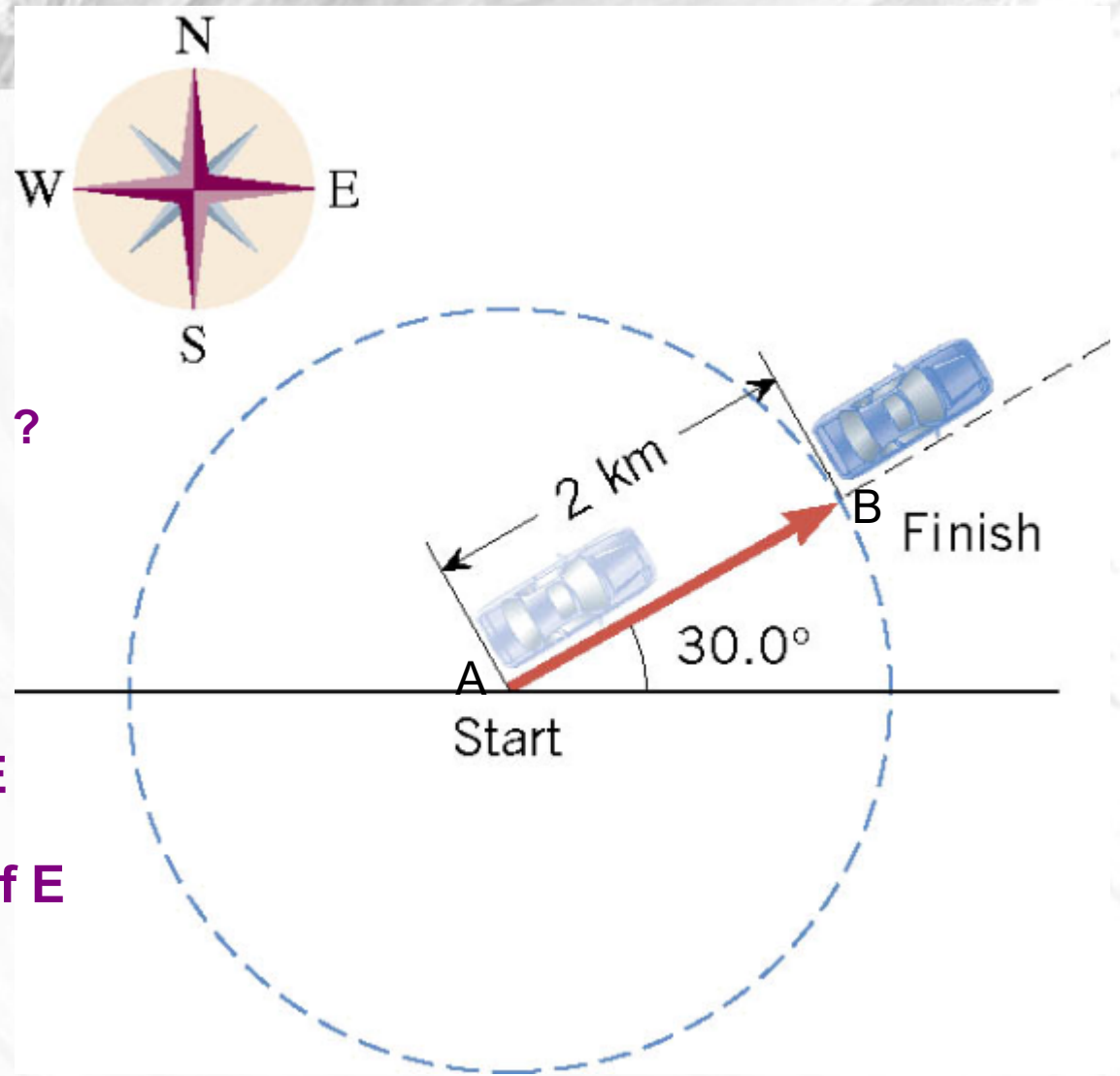
**What is the displacement of the car ?**  
(2 answers are correct)

→ **1.  $AB = 2\text{ km @ } 30 \text{ degrees}$**

→ **2.  $AB = 2 @ 30 \text{ degrees N of E}$**

→ **3.  $AB = 2\text{ km @ } 30 \text{ degrees N of E}$**

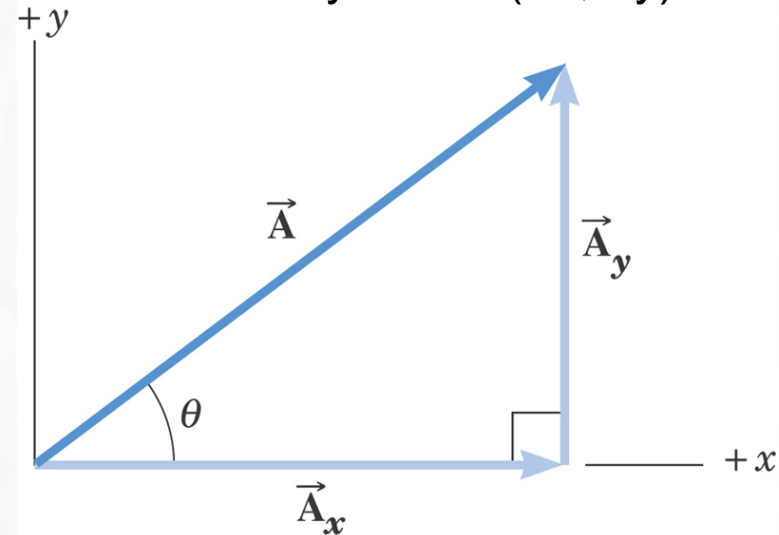
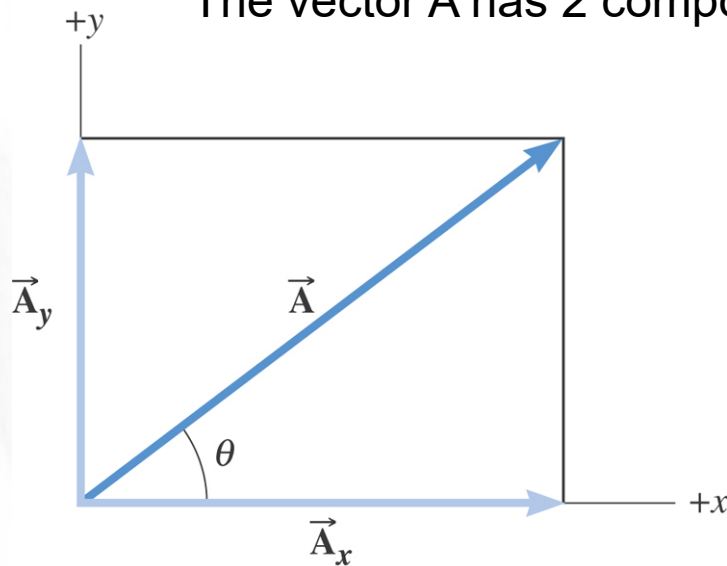
→ **4.  $AB = 2 \text{ km @ } 170 \text{ degrees N of E}$**



**Compute the components of the vectors displacements**

# VECTORS in PARTS

The vector  $A$  has 2 components in the Cartesian system  $A (A_x, A_y)$



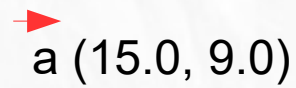
If  **$A$  is a vector displacement** (walking/moving from start to end)  
Then  $A_x$  is the horizontal displacement or x-component.  
(how far did you move along horizontal or here @ east).  
 $A_y$  is the vertical component or y-component how far did you move  
along vertical or here @ North).

If  **$A$  is a velocity**.  $A_x$  is how fast you move along horizontal  
Or how fast you move @ east.  $A_y$  is how fast you move along  
Vertical or @ North.



. Vector  $a$  has components  $a_x = 15.0$  and  $a_y = 9.0$ . What is the approximate magnitude of the vector  $a$ ?

a) 12.0



b) 24.0

Trace the vector in the coordinate system.  
Use Pythagorean theorem

c) 10.9

d) 6.87

e) 17.5

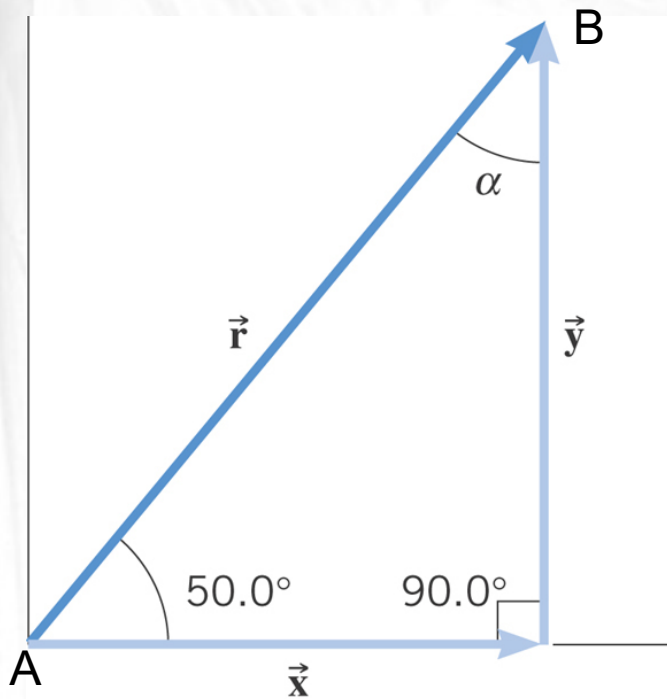
## Example

A displacement vector has a magnitude of 175 m and points at an angle of 50.0 degrees relative to the x axis. Find the x and y components of this vector.

- **R = 175m@50 degrees CCW about x-axis**

X and Y (round to nearest one) :

1. 209m m and 134 m
2. 134m and 113m
3. 113m and 134m



A) During the execution of a play, a football player carries the ball for a distance of 33 m in the direction  $76^\circ$  north of east. To determine the number of meters gained on the play, find the northward component of the ball's displacement.

Trace first the vector !!!!

- a) 8.0 m
- b) 16 m
- c) 24 m
- d) 28 m
- e) 32 m

1) a vector velocity is  $V = 30\text{mph} @ 20^\circ \text{ S of E}$  (in the 4<sup>th</sup> quadrant)

Find the components of the velocity

2) a vector acceleration is a has a x-component of  $10\text{m/s}$ . The angle is  $40^\circ$ .  
What is its y-component ? (use tangent)

3) a vector displacement is 50 miles @  $10^\circ \text{ N of W}$  (2<sup>nd</sup> quadrant)  
What are its components.

4) a vector has the components  $(-20, -10)$ . (third quadrant)

A) Trace the vector in a polar coordinate system.

B) Use tangent to find the angle relative to the x-axis.

C) what is the magnitude of the vector

D) what is the standard notation of the vector.

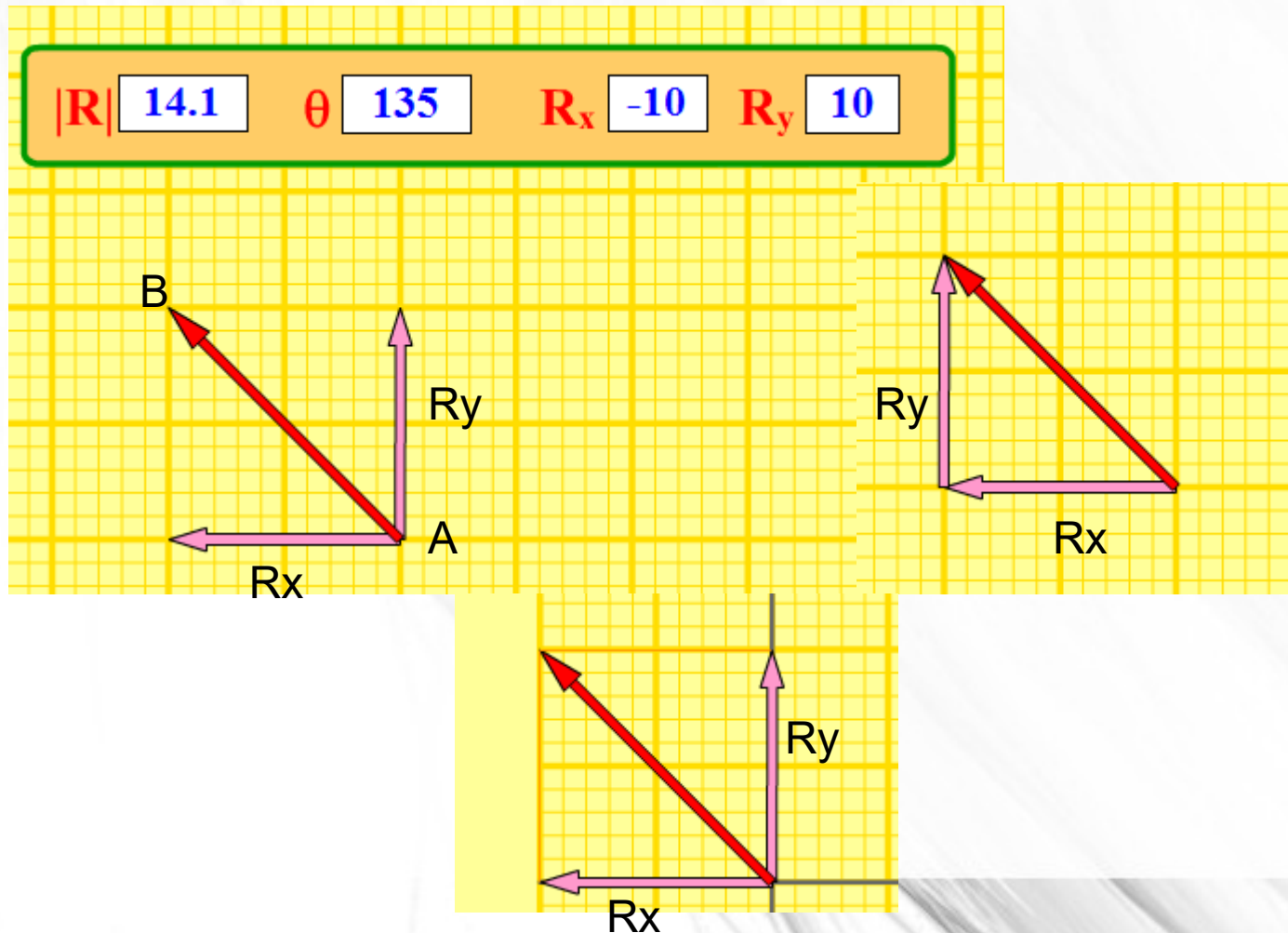
5) Same question for:

$(-20, 10)$   $(20, 10)$   $(20, -10)$  .

Play with :

[https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/vector-addition/vector-addition\\_en.html](https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/vector-addition/vector-addition_en.html)

We can represent the components 2 ways:

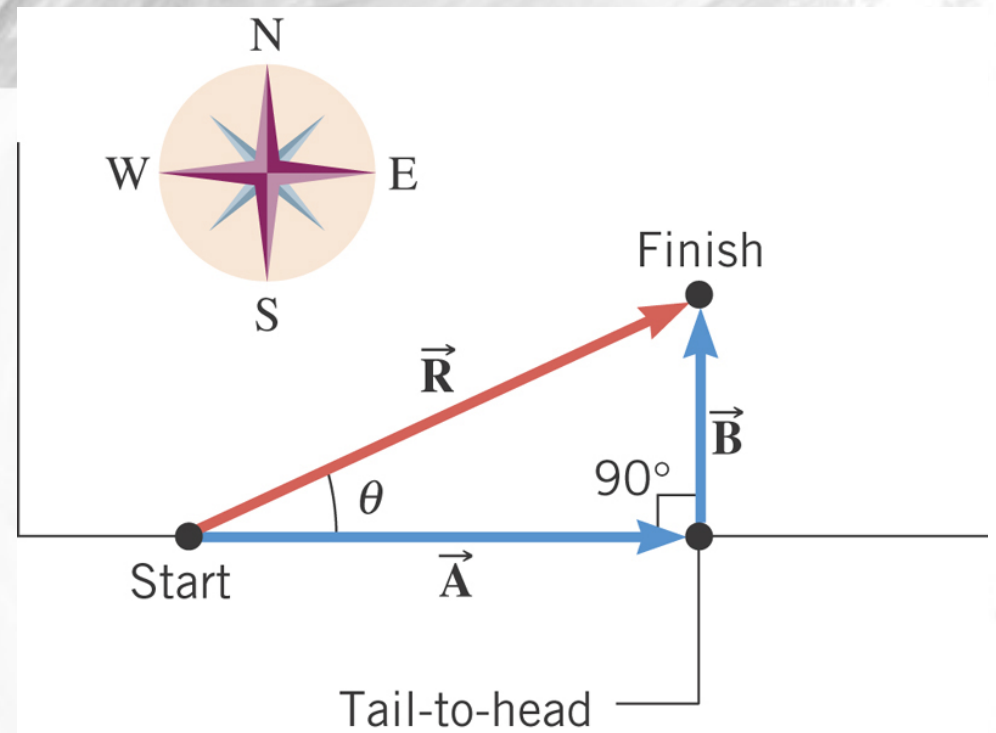
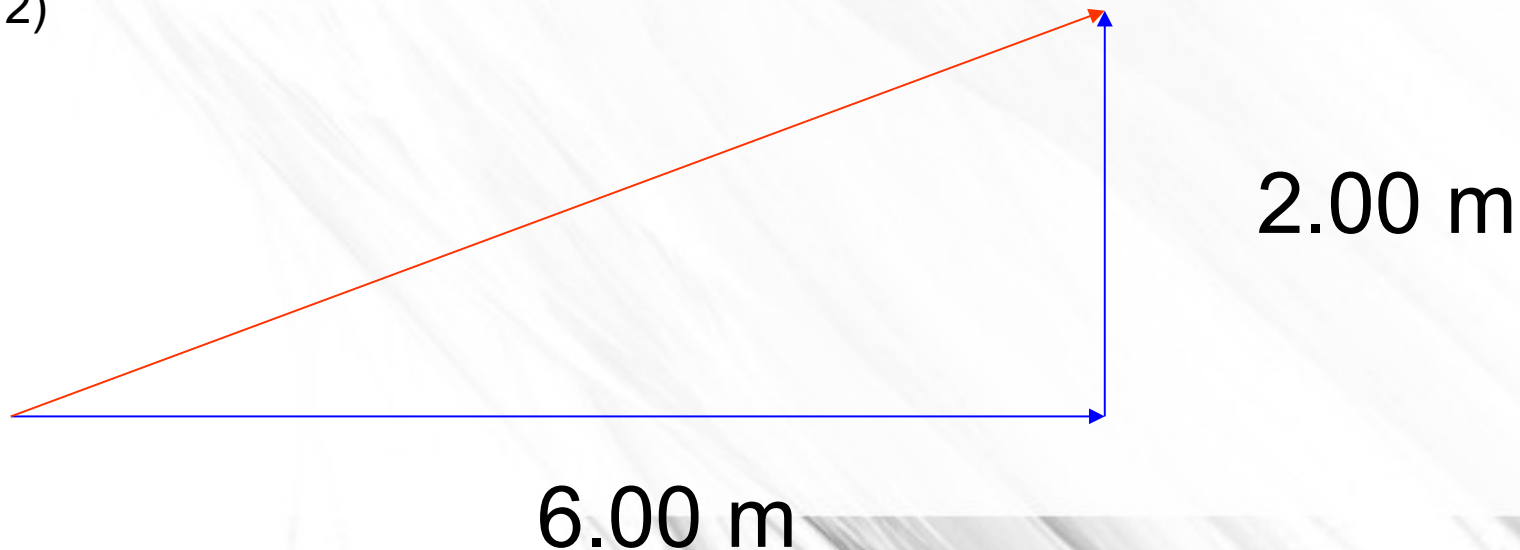




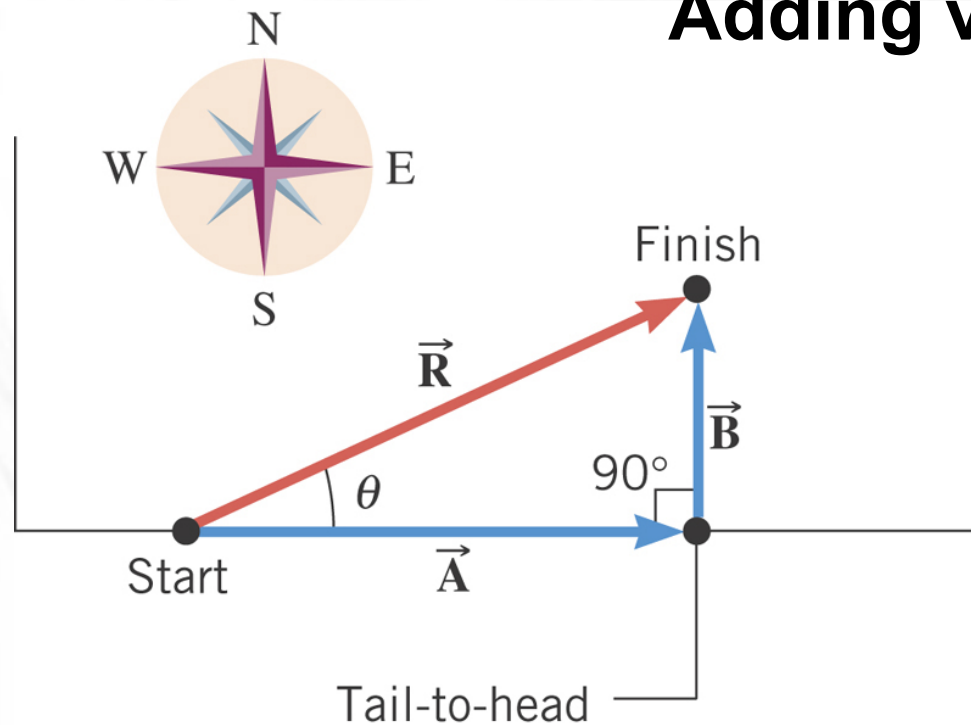
**You walk 6m@ east and 2m@ north  
What is your final displacement**

1. 6.32 m @ 19.5
2. 6.32m @ 70.5 N of E
3. 6.32 m @ 18.4
4. IDK

$\mathbf{R} (6, 2)$



# Adding vectors



This is adding vectors.  $A + B = R$  using the tail to head method.

<http://www.tutorvista.com/physics/adding-vectors-graphically>

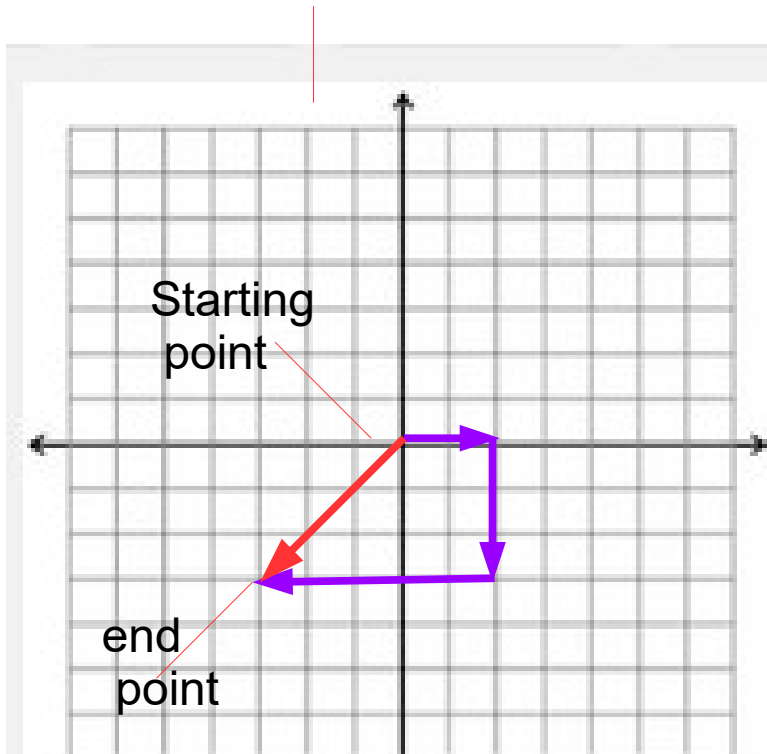
Practice here:

[https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/vector-addition/vector-addition\\_en.html](https://phet.colorado.edu/sims/vector-addition/vector-addition_en.html)

In 2D : if you add vectors geometrically place them tail to head.  
The sum is the vector that connect the tail of the first to the head of the last one  
Here are easy examples:

- 1) From the origin You move 2 blocks eastward, 3 blocks southward and 5 block westward.  
What is the final displacement From your starting point (origin here) ?  
The vector sum is in black. The vector sum connects the starting point to the end point.

sum =  **$(-3, -3)$**  or **sum = \_\_\_\_ block @ 225** Use Pythagorean and tangent as previously

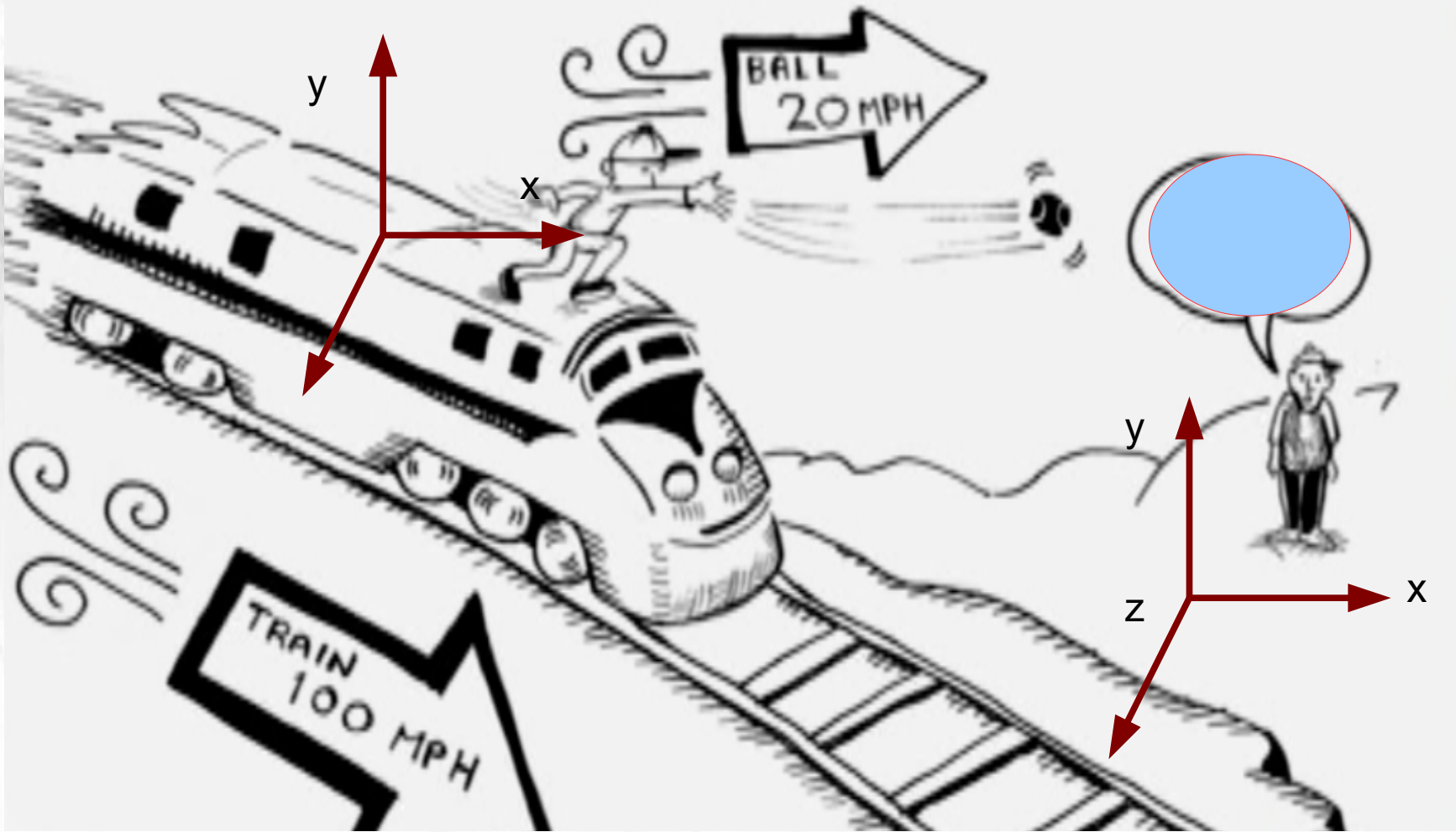


- 2) do the same for:

6 block westward , 3 blocks southward , 1 block west ward

- 3) 4 blocks North , 2 block eastward, 3 blocks southward

- 4) 5 blocks south, 3 blocks west, 3 blocks east, 2 blocks north.




The velocity is relative. It depends the frame of reference it is measured in. For the person watching the train (observer) how fast the train is going?<sup>22</sup> How fast the ball is going ? For the person on the train. How fast the ball is going ?



Moving walkway

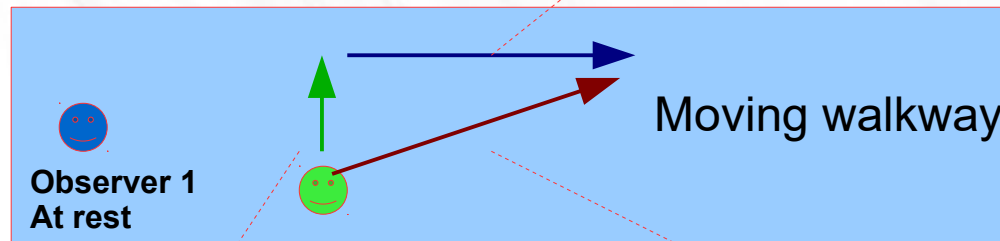
Do demo river



$$\mathbf{V} = \mathbf{V1} + \mathbf{V2}$$
 Adding velocities  
 = adding vectors

Speed of walkway


**Observer 2**  
 At rest



Describe the displacement  
Of green man relative to  
Observer 1 (on the walkway too)

Describe the displacement of  
Green man relative to observer 2  
Not on walkway.

**Your speed relative to observer 1  
(relative to walkway)**

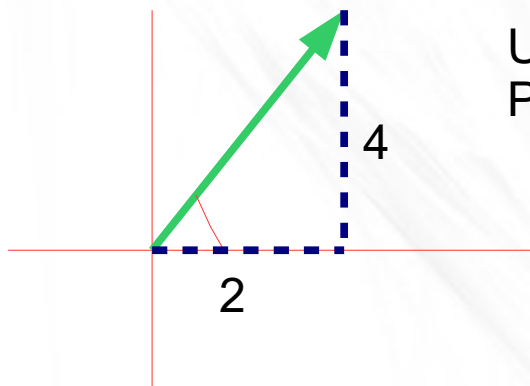
**Your Speed relative to the observer 2**



## **Example** Crossing a River

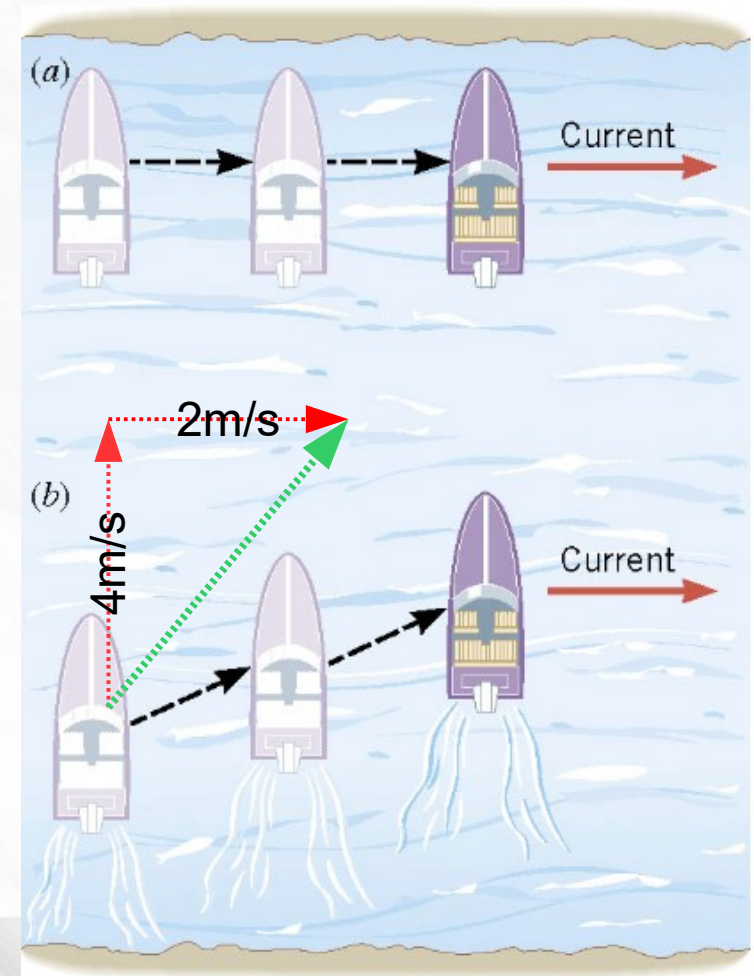
The engine of a boat drives it across a river that is 1800m wide. The velocity of the boat relative to the water is 4.0m/s directed perpendicular to the current. The velocity of the water relative to the shore is 2.0m/s.

(a) What is the velocity of the boat relative to the shore?  
So magnitude and direction



Use tangent and  
Pythagorean

- (b) How long does it take (s and min) for the boat to cross the river?  
(use only the vertical component  
 $V_y = \text{distance}/\text{time}$  )



## PROBLEMS/ ADDING VECTORS / connect starting point to end point

- 1) you walk 7 miles south and then 3 miles west. What is your displacement from your starting point ?  
(textbook)
- 2) A child is playing with a toy car on the floor on a train that is moving eastward. While the train travels 12.0m, the child pushes the car 2.6 m northward on the floor . What is the resulting displacement of the car ? That is the sum. (textbook)
- 3) Find the vector sum of 3.5m east and 5.8 m south. Give both magnitude and direction of the sum.  
(textbook)
- 4) A boat can travel 4.0m/s in still water. It is in a river that flows southward at 5.5 m/s ?, as shown. If the boat heads eastward, directly across the river, what are the direction and magnitude of its total velocity ?  
(textbook)

See textbook for more

